GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3906
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005
TRADE WITH FRANCE
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have agreed to take concrete steps to expand and diversify bilateral trade and investments to make ample use of the economic complementaries and abounding business opportunities between them;

(b) if so, facts thereof;

(c) whether India French Joint Committee meeting was held in December,2004 in New Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps both have agreed to take to improve trade expansion and investments;

(e) whether any agreement has been reached between two countries;

(f) if so, salient features thereof; and

(g) the extent to which India has agreed to expand trade with France?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Meetings of the Indo-French Joint Committee and sectoral Joint working Groups are held regularly to deliberate upon ways and means of enhancing co-operation in various sectors.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The 13th Session of the Indo-French Joint Committee was held in New Delhi on 9th December,2004 under the co-chairmanship of Minister of Commerce & Industry and the French Minister for Foreign Trade. In this meeting, the two sides agreed that the Governments as well as the private sectors of the two countries need to work together to enhance bilateral cooperation through promotion of trade, technical collaboration, investment, joint ventures and strategic alliances, particularly in areas such as infrastructure, agro-food processing, information technology and energy. The two sides exchanged views on current situation of their respective economies, the international economic scenario and market access issues. They reviewed the functioning of Joint Working Groups in the sectors of mineral exploration & development, information technology & telecommunications, posts, energy, roads, urban, development and railways.

(e) & (f): No agreement was signed during the aforesaid meeting of the joint Committee.

(g): Trade between India and France is sought to be promoted continuously through interaction at the Government level, exchange of delegations, trade promotion activities, business to business contact, etc. Bilateral trade between India and France during 2003-04 was of the order of US $ 2.34 billion against US $ 2.17 billion during 2002-03. During April - January 2004-05, bilateral trade between India and France was of the order of US $ 2.41 billion against US $ 1.84 billion during the corresponding period of 2003-04.